

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PORG OAS CU

SUBJECT: RAUL CASTRO'S PUBLIC COMMENTS SEPT 15-16

REF: MEXICO 8146

1. RAUL CASTRO'S REMARKS AT VARIOUS FUNCTIONS CELEBRATING MEXICO'S INDEPENDENCE HAVE RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE, ALTHOUGH NOT ALWAYS PROMINENT PRESS COVERAGE.

2. CASTRO SAID THAT CUBA WILL ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE US ONLY ON CONDITION THAT THE BLOCKADE IS COMPLETELY LIFTED. HE ADDED THAT CUBA WOULD RECOVER THE U.S. MILITARY BASE BY MEANS OF DIPLOMACY AND THAT THE BASE, WHICH OCCUPIES 110 SQUARE KILOMETERS AT GUANTANAMO, IS WITHOUT MILITARY IMPORTANCE AND COULD BE TAKEN BY THE CUBAN PEOPLE WITHIN TWO HOURS OR RENDERED USELESS WITHIN HALF AN HOUR. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT ALLEGED US PLOTS FOR ASSASSINATION OF PREMIER FIDEL CASTRO, RAUL SAID THAT ALL OF THE U.S. PRESIDENTS HAD FAILED IN ATTEMPTING THIS AND THAT WHILE HE AND FIDEL CONTINUE IN POWER, ALL OF THE U.S. PRESIDENTS HAD DISSAPEARED, SOME PHYSICALLY AND OTHERS, SUCH AS NIXON, MORALLY.

3. CASTRO REPEATED THAT CUBA HAS NO INTEREST IN RE-
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JOINING THE OAS "BECAUSE IT IS AT THE SERVICE OF

NORTH AMERICAN IMPERIALISM."

4. FINALLY, CASTRO SAID THAT CUBA WILL HOLD ITS FIRST CONGRESS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN MID-DECEMBER IN ORDER TO DISCUSS THE NEW CONSTITUTION WHICH ENTERS INTO FORCE FEBRUARY 24 NEXT YEAR.

5. CASTRO IS APPARENTLY RECEIVING RED CARPET TREATMENT IN MEXICO. THIS INCLUDES INVITATION TO DINNER FROM PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA WHICH INCLUDED SEC OF PRESIDENCY CERVANTES DEL RIO AND SEC OF AGRICULTURAL REFORM GOMEZ VILLANUEVA.
JOVA

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